IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor	David DIDUCH et al.	**Examiner:**	Glenn K. DAWSON
Serial No.:	10/084,283	**Confirmation No.**	7097
Filed:	February 26, 2002	**Group Art Unit:**	3731

Title: SUPERELASTIC SUTURE PASSING DEVICES AND METHODS

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed February 1, 2005 (the "Office Action"), in which a three (3) month shortened period for reply is May 1, 2005, please amend the application as follows and consider the following remarks:

Please change the title of the application.

Please enter new paragraph into the specification (between paragraphs 31 and 32) and amend paragraph 71 of the original specification.

Please enter new substitute drawing sheet showing amended Figure 9a and original Figure 9b.

Please cancel claims 24-28, 35, 36, 46 and 49; amend claims 48 and 50; and add new claims 52 - 67 as follows:

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By this amendment, claims 52-67 are newly added and read on the elected species shown in Figure 9a. Support for the new claims may be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. Currently, claims 48 and 50-67 remain pending in this application.

If any fees are associated with the entering and consideration of this preliminary amendment, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account 50-2882.

As all of the outstanding rejections have been traversed and all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If the undersigned attorney can assist in any matters regarding examination of this application, Examiner is encouraged to call at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

David DIDUCH et al.

Date: _17 February 2005_

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PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD
Effective October 1, 2001

Application or Docket Number

11108.002

CLAIMS AS FILED - PART I

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)
TOTAL CLAIMS	23	
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA
TOTAL CHARGEABLE CLAIMS	23 minus 20=	* 3
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	11 minus 3 =	* 8
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT		☐

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2

SMALL ENTITY TYPE ☐ OR **OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY**

RATE	FEE		RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE	370.00	OR	BASIC FEE	740.00
X$ 9=	27	OR	X$18=	
X42=	336	OR	X84=	
+140=		OR	+280=	
TOTAL	733	OR	TOTAL	

CLAIMS AS AMENDED - PART II

AMENDMENT A

	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA
Total	* 25	Minus	** 23	= 2
Independent	* 13	Minus	*** 11	= 2
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				☐

SMALL ENTITY OR **OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY**

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X$ 9=	18	OR	X$18=	
X42=	86	OR	X84=	
+140=		OR	+280=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

AMENDMENT B

	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA
Total	* 28	Minus	** 25	= 3
Independent	* 15	Minus	*** 13	= 2
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				☐

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X$ 9=	27	OR	X$18=	
X42=	84	OR	X84=	
+140=		OR	+280=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

2200
2201

AMENDMENT C

	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA
Total	* 35	Minus	** 28	= 7
Independent	* 13	Minus	*** 15	= 1
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				☐

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X$ 9=	52.00	OR	X$18=	
X42=		OR	X84=	
+140=		OR	+280=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.
** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20."
*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3."
The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

☆U.S GPO.2001 482-124 / 59197

Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE